Tennessee

By The Associated Press

● NASHVILLE — Rep. Robin Beard, R-Tenn., who has criticized American Medical Association endorsement of decriminalization of marijuana, is offering an alternative to Congress — and the Tennessee legislature.

Beard, seeking reelection from the 6th Congressional District, co-sponsored a bill introduced Monday in the House that would remove those arrested the first time for possessing small amounts of marijuana from the courts.

Beard said Tuesday the bill would not weaken penalties for those possessing large quantities of marijuana — and presumed to be pushers.

Beard said he hopes the bill can become model legislation for the nation — and would offer the measure for consideration by the legislature when it convenes next January.

Contempt citation urged

● MEMPHIS — The court-appointed guardian of a woman who may have seen Martin Luther King's killer Tuesday asked that author-attorney Mark Lane be cited for contempt of court for taking her to California. Larry Nance said Lane's removal of Grace Walden from the jurisdiction of Probate Court in Memphis was improper.

He filed a petition in Probate Judge Joseph Evans' court Tuesday, asking for a hearing on whether Lane should be cited for civil contempt. Lane has until May 22 to file an answer to the petition.